



27 September 2010

NOAA Integrated Ocean Observing System Program
1100 Wayne Ave., Suite 1225
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re. NERACOOS proposal for FY 2011 Regional Integrated Ocean Observing System Development

To Whom It May Concern;

Please accept this letter of support for the proposed development and maintenance of the Northeastern Regional Coastal Ocean Observing System on behalf of the state and federal members of the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC).

This particular proposal will continue the operation and development of the integrated ocean observing system for the coastal waters of the Northeast Region with associated Coordinated Regional Management, Observing, Data Management and Communications, Modeling and Analysis, and Outreach and Communication Subsystems. Together these subsystems provide a single system that is designed to have multiple uses. The NERACOOS objectives for 2011 to 2016 were derived from a stakeholder-driven process to define regional Strategic Priorities, and included input from multiple organizations and a diverse set of ocean and coastal managers. It is these policy and decision-support needs, both national and regional in nature, that determine the goals of the system and ultimately drive the integrated system design. It is worth noting that the NERACOOS objectives for 2011 to 2016 were derived from stakeholder driven Strategic Priorities, including multiple organizations and a diverse set of ocean and coastal managers.

As Chair of NROC, I could not be more pleased by the relationship that our group has developed with NERACOOS. A great example of that relationship is the way in which NERACOOS formed its working committee structure around the same issue areas as the NROC working committees (ocean energy, coastal hazards and ocean and coastal ecosystem health). This has made for the seamless transition of policy objectives from NROC to the scientific objectives of NERACOOS.

To formalize our relationship, NROC and NERACOOS recently signed a memorandum of understanding. That MOU calls for the two organizations to work together to 1) create joint regional priorities which will guide work plans and fund development processes, 2) share committee meetings, materials and reports, 3) jointly support projects of shared interest, and 4) create progress reports related to joint activities.

Finally, as a coastal manager and user of coastal and ocean observations, I am personally encouraged and impressed by the good work that NERACOOS accomplishes on a shoestring budget.

Water quality managers, fisheries managers, researchers, mariners, emergency responders, coastal land managers, aquaculturists, and many more will benefit from this system. NERACOOS is moving in the right direction with this proposal to serve up useful products for information hungry coastal managers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ted Diers".

Ted Diers, Manager, NH Coastal Program
Chair, Northeast Regional Ocean Council